The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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LAWSON WAS "JOBBED" SAYS STATE ATTORNEY

Denver, April 21.—In the language of police, John R. Lawson, union miner, was "jobbed," and was "railroaded" to life imprisonment by a coal operators' attorney, acting as judge.

This confession was made by State's Attorney General Hubbard in a brief filed in the state supreme court, in which it is acknowledged that former Attorney General Farrar, who prosecuted Lawson, committed error at the trial. The court is asked to set aside Lawson's life sentence.

The state official declared this action should be taken "because of the invalidity of the entire proceedings." The brief refers to the miners' strike and the feeling developed on both sides.

"Under the circumstances," it is stated, "it was particularly unfortunate that he was tried before a judge against whom there rested the imputation of interest, bias, or prejudice." This statement refers to Granby Hillyer, ex-coal operators' attorney, who was appointed judge of a specially-created judicial district by a coal-operators' legislature, to try the hundreds of miners charged with all manner of crime as a result of the strike. After Lawson was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment and the state supreme court ordered a new trial, admitted Lawson to bail and debarred Hillyer from hearing other cases, the "frame up" of coal operators and their allies collapsed under the aggressive agitation conducted by organized labor, and not a single union miner is now in jail.

Lawson was charged with killing a mine guard. Later jurors made oath that after they had considered the case for hours, the court bailiff who was in charge of the jury told them that Judge Hillyer gave orders that no food should be supplied them until they had agreed on a verdict. One juror swore that he stood against conviction until the bailiff told him his wife was taken suddenly ill and was liable to die. It was afterward found that the juror's wife had not been sick.

Lawson was active during the strike and was a member of the executive board of the United Mine Workers at the time. Since then he has retired from office and is now working at his trade.

BONUSES IS SPY AID.

Indianapolis, April 21.—Detective agencies have realized the value of the bonus system in their work of smashing trade unionism, according to the United Mine Workers' Journal, which reprints a circular issued in West Virginia, while the miners were negotiating with operators.

"Our experience has convinced us that the bonus system that is now in operation gets the desired results," says this agency. "We find the best way to control labor organizations is to lead and not force them. We are also convinced that the conservative elements in all unions will control when properly led and officered, which we are prepared to do. We help eliminate the agitator and organizer quietly with little or no friction.

"Our spotters are going from place to place, and you will find that they will be able to put over the bonuses that we offer, that has for its purpose the destruction of the mine workers, and a quieting effect upon the men who are restless. It makes them believe they don't have to pay dues in an organization in order to get an advance in wages. It has the desired effect for this reason—when all the agitation has subsided, we can take the bonuses back off."

LONGSHOREMEN GAIN.

Chicago, April 21.—At a conference between representatives of the Lumber Carriers' association and the International Longshoremen's association an agreement for the loading of lumber for the season of 1917 at 33 ports in Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana was reached. Wages are increased to 55 cents an hour for day work and 82 1-2 cents for overtime. If men are ordered out on Sundays and there is no work for them they will receive two hours' pay at overtime rates.

Buffalo, April 21.—Union longshoremen have raised wages 10 per cent for the unloading of lumber in the ports of Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Buffalo. Local No. 495 (grain elevator employes) of this city has raised wages 20 per cent and substantial increases have been secured by Local No. 109 (grain shovelers.)

MOVE SLOW ON PENSION PLAN.

Columbus, Ohio, April 21.—Officers of the state federation of labor refuse to commit the movement to any specific old-age pension plan at this time and have declined the request of Herbert Bigelow, of Cincinnati, connected with the Old Age Pension league, who urges Ohio unionists to support a constitutional amendment favored by the league.

At the recent session of the state legislature the Ohio Federation of Labor secured the passage of a bill creating a commission to study this question, and also health insurance, and report to the next general assembly.

The organized workers will wait for the report of the commission before they take definite action on any plan.

UNORGANIZED WANT LESS HOURS

San Francisco, April 21.—Employes of the United Railroads, one of the street car systems in this city, have asked Mayor Rolph to assist them in securing the eight-hour day. In an open letter to these workers, officers of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes suggest that organization along trade union lines will make the shorter work day an assured fact.

BOSS CARELESS; MEN STRIKE.

Tacoma, Wash., April 21.—Demanding the removal of the mine superintendent, 600 union miners employed by the Carbon Hill Coal company have suspended work. The men charge the superintendent with incompetency and say he has been discredited as a foreman by several accidents. Company officials laugh at this "safety-first" plea and insist it's only "prejudice."

CABINET MAKERS WIN.

St. Louis, Mo., April 21.—As the result of negotiations with the Fixture Manufacturers' association, wages of members of Carpenters' union No. 1136 have been increased from 36 to 38 cents an hour until June 12, and to 40 cents for one year after that date.

DENTAL ASSISTANTS UNITE.

Butte, Mont., April 21.—Long hours have forced dentists' assistants to realize the necessity for organization and they have formed the Dental Assistants' union and will apply to the A. F. of L. for a charter.

VOLUNTARY ACTION URGED BY GOMPERS

Washington, April 21.—Voluntary action rather than compulsion was urged by President Gompers in a statement submitted to the house committee on military affairs. The A. F. of L. executive said:

"The organized labor movement has always been fundamentally opposed to compulsion. It has maintained that institutions and relations of a free people can and should be based upon the voluntary principle. It now maintains that what has been the directing basic principle in industrial organization and service must be the initial basic principle in the military. The declaration unanimously adopted by the representatives of the entire organized labor movement of the United States is based upon this adherence to the voluntary principle.

"It has been the hope of the men and women of labor that if this republic should inevitably be drawn into active participation in the present world conflict that the republic of the United States might demonstrate to the world that free institutions and ideals are effective and sufficient in war as well as in peace.

"It is the hope of organized labor to demonstrate that under voluntary conditions and institutions the republic of the United States can mobilize its greatest strengh, resources and efficiency.

"We know that only under voluntary conditions can the nation mobilize good will. Good will is essential to enthusiastic and effective united action.

"The labor movement stands firmly by the voluntary principle. We declare that at no time have voluntary institutions been given a real, effective and conclusive test. Until such a test shall have been given there is no good reason for abandoning the principle which was born of the spirit of 1776 and which has enabled us to establish the ideals and the traditions that have given this republic meaning as a country, free, efficient and capable of meeting any condition or emergency."

UNIONISTS SUE FOR $100,000.

Washington, April 21.—W. B. Mahon, president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, and Edward McMorrow, representative of the same organization, have each sued the Washington Railway and Electric company for $50,000 damages because of libelous statements made in advertisements wherein it was stated that the company refused to recognize this union because its officers were "lawbreakers."

The company locked out its employes several weeks ago when they refused to sign individual contracts, and has imported large numbers of gunmen and strikebreakers. In the company's campaign to capture public opinion the Street Car Men's union and its officers have been pictured as "undesirable citizens," but since the damage suits have been started the company announces that "the strike is over."

The United States senate, on motion of Senator Hughes of New Jersey, a member of the labor group, will investigate the strike. The committee will consist of Senators Hughes, Dillingham, Pittman, Harding, and King.

WHAT UNIONISM CAN DO.

Toronto, Ontario, April 21.—Metal Polishers' union No. 21 has shown that the trade union movement can be made a speedy institution if workers put their shoulders to the wheel.

In one year Toronto "shiners" have raised wages 22 per cent and established a minimum rate of 45 cents an hour; reduced the work day from 10 to nine hours, secured the Saturday half holiday in a majority of the shops and made better working conditions possible.

Trenton, N. J., April 21.—Metal Polishers' union No. 140 has secured wage increases that range from 5 to 15 per cent in the various branches of this industry.

RECORD COAL PRODUCTION.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., April 21.—Shipments of anthracite coal last month totalled nearly 7,000,000 tons, establishing a new record for this region. This is 206,038 tons more than in March, 1916. The March, 1917, record is interesting in view of the scarcity-of-labor claims.

IRON MOLDERS ADVANCE.

Aurora, Ill., April 21.—Iron Molders' union No. 137 has been rewarded for its activity during the past several weeks. Thorough organization resulted in raising wages to 50 cents an hour.

IRON WORKERS ASK 55 CENTS.

Toronto, Ontario, April 21.—Structural Iron Workers' union has presented a demand for a 55-cent an hour wage rate, to take effect May 1.

LARGE BAKING PLANT RECOGNIZES UNION

New York, April 21.—The Ward Baking company has signed a union-shop eight-hour agreement with the Bakery ...fectionery Workers' International union. This concern is the largest of its kind in the country and has been combatted for years by organized bakers, who now secure the eight-hour day, union wage scales and the union shop.

The Ward concern has plants in several cities. Its Chicago and Newark, N. J., branches have been unionized for some time. The bakers have maintained a steady agitation against the company, and one of the forms of opposition was a boycott on the Brooklyn team in the Federal Base Ball league, two years ago, in which the Wards were financially interested.

The agreement will continue for three years, with wage increases to be considered every year. The bakers' victory will effect this industry throughout the entire east and will stimulate these workers to greater organization energy.

Baltimore, April 21.—About 450 members of Bakery Workers' union suspended work to enforce a nine-hour day and a $16 weekly minimum. The union has already secured contracts with over 50 shops.

New York, April 21.—Bakery Workers' union No. 100 has won a three-years' strike against the Messing bakery concern. The union is recognized, the eight-hour work day agreed to and the following wage rates will be paid: Oven men and mixers, $26 a week; bench men, $24; machine men, $22; jobbers, $5.50, $4.50 and $4 a day.

During this dispute over 200 men and women were arrested, three members of the union were sentenced to terms in prison and about $12,000 was expended by the strikers. While the strike was on Messing worked his non-unionists 12 hours a day and 14 hours on Fridays.

TO STUDY, NOT TO HINDER

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS.

The president's proclamation of war between this country and Germany was followed, by a feeling and a fear of unknown disturbances in the commercial and industrial world. There were rumors and the beginnings of efforts to make war danger the excuse for changing completely existing standards. Movements began to suspend or to change the standard of the workday and other conditions established to protect the health and to conserve the labor power of workers.

In order to inject something that would act as a steadying force during the first hours after the war, the executive committee of the committee on labor, including conservation of the health and welfare of workers, adopted a declaration which was referred to the advisory commission, and when adopted by that body, to the council of national defense. The council of national defense then adopted and made public the declaration. The purpose of the declaration was to prevent enactment of legislation repealing labor legislation and to prevent unnecessary, ill-advised and hasty changes of standards in private industry. The declaration urged upon the legislatures of the several states which were then in session and would shortly adjourn—some for a two-year period—that before final adjournment they delegate to the governors of their respective states the power to suspend or modify restrictions contained in their labor laws when such suspension or modification should be requested by the council of national defense, and that such suspensions or modifications should be made only for a specified period and no longer than the duration of the war.

In the course of the meeting at which these resolutions were passed, it was clearly stated and understood that the intent of the first resolution regarding possible emergencies requiring modifications in existing standards was to maintain existing standards. The attention of the committee was directed to the fact, and it was generally understood for the basis of our action, that workmen employed in the transportation systems and industrial plants may find their wages of the present time out or proportion to the increased cost of living, and in that case a maintenance of the present status of labor conditions obviously implied an advance in wage scales.

In the discussion on this point which followed in the committee, consideration was given to the circumstances in which, during the war, organized English miners were obliged to demonstrate the necessity of a wage increase, the award being in their favor when they had proved the considerable changes that had taken place in the cost of living. Plainly, in similar cases in this country, higher wage scales must be adopted. Therefore, there were incorporated in the resolutions the recommendation that proposed changes should be made only after investigation and approval by the council of national defense, whose duty in this respect should also be a vigorous maintenance of safeguards to the health and welfare of workers.

The resolutions in question clearly apply only to the large industries and the transportation systems whose operations are essential to the prosecution of the war. They are not intended to cover every petty labor difference in the country, though it is hoped that patriotic regard will be had by all citizens to the need of a possible maximum of industrial peace everywhere. It is, of course, not expected that negotiations or even strikes now on in various occupations shall be wholly suspended, irrespective of the merits of the questions under discussion. On such points each trade union is the judge of the principles which should prevail in its action.

The special attention of trade unions is called to the fact that the resolutions declare that legislatures should uphold and public officers enforce existing labor and health laws, and that the modifications or standards authorized in extraordinary emergencies by the council of national defense should be only for specified periods and in any event not longer than the duration of the war.

With this statement, I feel that each case of differences arising between employers and employes, as well as the trade agreements or other matters now under discussion, may be left to the common sense of men who are willing and anxious to perform their duty to their country in the present grave situation.

I trust that the above will clarify the misunderstanding which really occurred, not so much from what was published in the newspapers, but the scare headlines which had really no relation to the substance of the body of the resolutions.

I take it that in this crisis in our nation's history everyone will do his level best, not only for service, but for a united spirit and action.

COURTING OF LABOR PRESENT-DAY TACTICS

San Francisco, April 21.—"A short half century ago," says the Labor Clarion, "the organizations of labor in this country were looked upon with suspicion and their members treated with open, undisguised discourtesy and brusqueness by the average citizen of the United States. They were quite generally considered to be organizations instituted for the sole purpose of provoking trouble through interfering with the undisputed rights of the employer and calculated to serve no useful end whatever. Under these conditions, with popular opinion almost solidly against them, the pioneers in the movement needed courage and dogged determination to continue on the course mapped out by the clear-visioned men who saw in organization of the toilers a medium through which the wrongs from which they suffered could be righted. It was the consciousness of certain power to follow that kept them at their task and gave to the men of today the unions of achievement that are feverishly courted by those who desire to have their policies woven into the fabric of governmental reality.

"A retrospective view over this short period of time shows the great changes the years have wrought. The once heartily despised organizations of labor now occupy a position that receives courtesy and friendship from those who are interested in the progress and welfare of humanity, and that commands respect, and even meekness from those who are arrogant toward the powerless. Now the influence of organized labor is sought from all sides.

"And what is the magic thing that has brought about this great change in the course of a few short years? Why is the organized worker of today accorded the respectful consideration due a man, rather than as in the old days, treated like a beast of burden?

"The answer is a simple one. In unity there is strength, and the workers have had the intelligence to appreciate this fact, the courage to carry out their convictions and the stamina to successfully organize. In a single word the cause of the change is organization.

"The American wage-worker is proud of his achievements in the field of organization, though he is not by any means satisfied with the present status of affairs and has not the slightest intention of slowing down in his efforts to bring his brothers still on the outside within the fold. In truth, his work has only started, the end being still but an indistinct vision in the distance."

VOTING ON AMALGAMATION.

New York, April 21.—Membership of the Amalgamated Lithographers of America are voting on a plan to amalgamate with the International Lithographic Protective association. In urging a favorable vote, President Bock of the former organization, says:

"I am positive that if the members of each of the organizations to comprise this amalgamation will take the proper interest in the work no fear need be entertained, and it appears to me that all it requires is confidence in one another, that selfish interests must be cast aside, and, if the proper spirit is shown, amalgamation in itself must be beneficial to the whole trade."

JAPS CAN NOT OWN LAND.

Riverside, Cal., April 21.—The California anti-alien land law, adopted in 1913, "does not conflict with the provisions of the treaty between the United States and Japan," according to a decision by Judge Hugh H. Craig of the Superior court in the suit of the state to forfeit the property here of Jukishi Harada, a Japanese.

The court rules that the state had a right to "forbid ownership of land to aliens not eligible to citizenship," and that "Japanese had a right to lease, but not to own, real estate in California."

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Hamilton, Ontario, April 21.—Painters' union has raised wages 2 1-2 cents an hour, which makes the minimum 40 cents.

Toledo, Ohio, April 21.—An increase of 5 cents an hour has been secured by Painters' union No. 7 without a strike. The minimum wage is now 50 cents.

Marinette, Wis., April 21.—Wages have been increased to 35 cents an hour by organized painters and paperhangers in the twin cities—Marinette, Wis., and Menominee, Mich.

6,000 BABES DIE EVERY YEAR.

Philadelphia, April 21.—The death of 6,000 children under 5 years old in this city every year can be traced, in most cases, to insanitary homes or failure to observe some elemental law of health, says Director Krusen of the health and charities department.

BUTCHER SHOPS CLOSE SUNDAY.

Denison, Tex., April 21.—Union butcher workmen have stopped Sunday work, as these shops have agreed to close on Sunday—after the employes organized and started a vigorous agitation against the practice.

SOFT COAL MINERS MAKE WAGE RECORD

New York, April 21.—United Mine Workers have established a record by securing wage increases reaching 20 per cent for their members employed in the bituminous fields as a result of conferences with operators from the central competitive fields of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and western Pennsylvania. Contracts do not expire until next year. The increases were granted in response to the workers' complaint that the former wage scale was not sufficient to meet war-time costs of living.

"This advance," said President White of the United Mine Workers, "is in marked contrast to the turmoil and confusion that swept over the English coal industry and threatened to paralyze England's industrial activities soon after the war began. The operators have accepted our opposition to the payment of bonuses, always a source of controversy and discord, and have met our demand for a flat increase so that the miner will know definitely what his earnings are to be."

Because other fields generally base their wage scales on the central competitive fields, it is believed the increases will affect the following states: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, West Virginia, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Utah, Wyoming and Washington.

It is stated that the anthracite miners will ask for a similar increase.

CHILDREN IN WAR TIME.

Washington, April 21.—The children's bureau of the federal department of labor emphasizes the importance of a strict enforcement of all child labor and school attendance laws and a generous development of infant welfare work by public and private agencies in these war times. It is stated that the experience of other countries should be carefully considered in order that all possible provision may be made to prevent harm to children in the United States. According to reports from belligerent countries which have come to the bureau, juvenile delinquency has increased, more children have been employed under adverse conditions, special measures have been necessary to protect the health of mothers and babies, and home life has been broken up by the increased employment of mothers. The bureau is preparing a review of foreign experiences, in so far as it can be understood from available reports, and will publish a series of special articles about children in war time in the near future.

FERRYMEN REDUCE HOURS.

San Francisco, Cal., April 21.—Deck men and firemen employed on ferry boats were not included in the 56-hour week arrangement agreed to by railroad companies and masters, mates, engineers and pilots. The deck men and firemen were working 24 hours off and 24 hours on but were later reduced to "not more than 13 hours' work in any 24," in conformity with a ruling by the federal steamboat inspection bureau. Thirteen hours a day was unsatisfactory, however, and these workers discussed strike in such certain tones that the companies agreed to make the 56-hour week universal on their ferry boats.

INCREASES FOR TRACKMEN.

Washington, April 21.—Section foremen and trackmen employed on the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad have raised wages. Section foremen are increased from $2.50 to $6 a month and trackmen receive proportionate advances. These workers are members of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employes, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES

Rochester, N. Y., April 21.—Teamsters' union No. 304 has signed an agreement with the Genessee Valley Milk Products company. Wages are $20 and $24 weekly, with one day a month off with pay.

CO-OP. STORE PAYS.

Lincoln, Ill., April 21.—The co-operative store at this place, controlled by union miners, has declared a 3 per cent dividend after being organized less than eight [illegible]

WONT TEAR UP RAILS IF MEN BAN STRIKE

Washington, April 21.—Because street car employes of the Washington Railway and Electric company have refused to sign individual contracts they have been locked out.

Under the contract, workers would surrender all forms of collective action, and the company, affecting a spirit of fairness and equity, pledges itself to never take its cars and lock them in barns, or scrap its power house and machinery, or rip up the rails from Washington's streets and force the people to walk.

This is the legal form in which the company presents its humorous pledge:

"And in consideration thereof, said company on its part agrees that it will not lock out its employes in a body or close down its works, or cease operation of its cars or refuse to employ and keep in its employ a force of suitable and competent men who are willing to abide by this agreement."

While no one ever heard of a street car company locking out its non-union employes, or ceasing to operate its cars—while dividends are forthcoming—this concern, in all seriousness, insists that workers should not act collectively because it agrees to do those things it promised the public authorities it would do when it was given the use of the streets.

Under this individual contract grievances must be first presented to the superintendent, then to the president and then to the public utilities commission. An employe may present his case in person or be represented by another employe in the same class of service. This would permit a track worker, who may have little education, or who has not been accustomed to dealing with presidents of street railway companies, to ask a fellow track worker to also run the risk of discharge by assisting him in this unequal contest for justice. In the event some persistent employe lasted long enough to carry his case to the public utilities commission, and that body agreed the track worker was entitled to be represented by one who could plead his case in a competent manner, the company would show the track worker's signature to an individual contract which provides that the decision of the commission on any point "shall be in harmony with the expressed terms and provisions of this contract."

WHITE RATS' STRIKE OFF.

New York, April 21.—Officers of the White Rats Actors' union have declared the strike against 60 theaters in various parts of the country suspended because of war conditions. The strike was caused by a lockout policy of the Vaudeville Managers' Protective association. The White Rats announce they will continue their court contests against several injunctions and that their strike has been a lesson to the managers.

"Tomorrow is another day," is the significant statement of President Fitzpatrick, in announcing the strike suspension.

BOILER MAKERS WIN.

Wilmington, Del., April 21.—Differences between the Harlan & Hollingsworth corporation and Boiler Makers' union No. 494 have been adjusted and the men have returned to work. The union had negotiated a wage scale that raised wages 12 per cent for piece workers and 16 per cent for day workers, but the company failed to reinstate a committeeman.

Although the boiler makers had secured substantial wage increases, they suspended work as a protest against this injustice.

CLOTH HAT MAKERS TO MEET.

New York, April 21.—Officers of the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' union are arranging for the eleventh biennial convention, to be held in this city, beginning May 1 next. This organization has trebled its membership within the past year and now has an enrollment of over 12,000. Its most striking success has been secured in the ladies' hat and millinery branch.

MINERS SECURE CONTRACTS.

Trinidad, Col., April 21.—Independent mine operators at Louisville, Firestone, Frederick and Oak Creek have signed contracts with the United Mine Workers. This organization is capturing every outpost preparatory to moving on the main fort of anti-unionism in southern Colorado—the Colorado Fuel and Iron company.

LAUNDRY WORKERS UNITE.

Cheyenne, Wyo., April 21.—Laundry workers in this city have organized with the aid of local trade unionists, who are determined to secure better conditions for these poorly-paid workers.

DOCK BUILDERS ADVANCE.

Philadelphia, April 21.—Wharf and Dock Builders' union No. 454 has secured wage increases and the eight-hour day as the result of an agreement with the Snare & Triest company, this city's largest dock builders.

PRESENT GENERATION SHOULD PAY WAR COST

Washington, April 21.—Believing that the major cost of the present war should not be shifted to future generations, President Gompers has written Congressman Keating, a member of the labor group, as follows:

"It is respectfully submitted that there are other available means to supply the financial needs of the government to carry on and meet the expenses of the present war other than is proposed in the $5,000,000,000 bond issue and that the distant future should not be mortgaged while other available means are at the command of our government.

"The following suggestions are respectfully submitted:

"The postal saving bank system should be at once made the avenue for the deposit by the people of the United States of immense sums of money.

"The limitation of the deposits to $1,000 per person should be suspended for a specified period or if necessary for the duration of the war.

"The rate of interest on postal saving bank deposits should be increased from 2 per cent to 3 per cent per annum.

"The income tax should be substantially increased and graduated.

"The inheritance tax should be materially increased and these two latter suggestions should be made to bear the large proportion of the financial needs of the government.

"A tax on land values should be laid not only as a war emergency measure, but also for a permanent means of raising revenue."

UNIONISM FOLLOWED TYRANNY.

Richmond, Va., April 21.—The czar-like methods of railroad officials forced employes to unite is the acknowledgment of George M. Stevens, president of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad, in an interview published in the Times-Dispatch.

"Personally, and as a railroad man," he said, "I recognize that the labor union has come to stay. As an employer, my attitude is that employers might as well recognize it and unite with the unions to see that both sides get a square deal.

"In all frankness, I rather suspect that the union of today resulted largely from overbearing methods of railroad managements of the early days of railroading, or even from more recent days. There was the time when the railroad manager was an absolute little czar in his position. If a man displeased him in aught, he cut off his head arbitrarily and that was the end of it.

"Today, when the manager discharges an employe, he must show a clean case against him that he deserved discharge. That is only fair and right to the wage earner, especially the one who is supporting a family."

LABORERS PAID 40 CENTS.

Braidwood, Ill., April 21.—After a 36 hours' strike Hod Carriers and Laborers' union No. 75 raised wages to 40 cents an hour for sewer construction work. Hours are reduced to nine per day, with time and one-half for overtime.

Trenton, N. J., April 21.—Two years ago hod carriers in this city allowed their union to lapse because of internal troubles. During the interim these workers have noticed that their employers have not handed them anything, so the hod carriers have again united and asked their international that the union be given its old number.

RAILROAD FINED $2,000.

Beaumont, Tex., April 21.—The Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe railroad has been fined $2,000 on 20 counts by the federal court of this district for violating the federal hours-of-service law. The management plead guilty to forcing telegraph operators to work 12 hours a day for 20 days.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Richmond, Va., April 21.—Electrical Workers' union has reached an agreement with contractors. The gains include an eight-hour day, a 50-cent minimum wage rate, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays. F. G. Davis, representing the federal department of labor, acted as mediator.

DEFEAT WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

St. Paul, Minn., April 21.—By a vote of 49 to 14 the state senate rejected a proposed constitutional amendment for women's suffrage after suffrage advocates had indicated that they did not desire the amendment submitted at this time. The bill passed the house by a large majority.

EIGHT HOURS IN R. R. YARD.

Springfield, Mo., April 21.—The eight-hour day has been inaugurated in the yards of the 'Frisco railroad and in the future three shifts of eight hours will replace the former two-shift plan.

WORKERS PAY ONE-HALF OF FUND FOR FIRST AID

Seattle, Wash., April 21.—Although dissatisfied with certain features of the new first-aid law, officers of the state federation of labor have recommended that the referendum be not applied to this legislation at this time.

The trade union movement attempted to have costs placed on the industry, but under the law the costs are divided equally between the employer and employe. Industries are divided into five groups, according to hazard, termed A, B, C, D, and E. The employer pays into the fund monthly for each day's work performed, as follows: Class A, 1 cent; B, 1 1-2 cents; C, 2 cents; D, 2 1-2 cents; E, 3 cents. The employer shall deduct one-half of his premiums from his workers. All charges for maintaining the fund shall be borne by the state industrial insurance commission.

To enforce the first aid law a state medical board shall be created, consisting of the chief surgeon of the commission, one member chosen by organized labor and one by organized employers. Local boards shall consist of two members, one chosen by employer and one by the employes. A majority of the workmen may appoint or remove. Local boards shall care for injured workmen, investigate all features of each case, cause of injury, make recommendations and audit all bills for service. An injured workman or employer may appeal from the local board to the state board. It is unlawful for employers to charge for medical or hospital treatment other than specified in the act.

Charges of physicians and surgeons shall be set by the state board, and charges in excess of the established rate shall be invalid.

If a workman refuses to submit himself for examination or treatment his monthly payment shall be suspended. He shall be allowed traveling expenses when necessary in submitting to such examination or treatment.

WAS GOMPERS RIGHT? ASKS LABOR EDITOR

Minneapolis, April 21.—Before the war Editor Cramer of the Labor Review, owned by the Trades and Labor Assembly of this city, advocated "no war," and journeyed to Washington with other citizens in the interest of peace.

Writing in the last issue of the Labor Review he comments on his visit to the nation's capital and under the caption, "Was Gompers Right?" makes this editorial statement:

"There is much comment favorable and unfavorable of the position taken by President Gompers in expressing the attitude of organized labor toward the war, and in accepting a position on the council of defense.

"Having recently been in the east and having seen first hand the sentiment of the east we believe it is impossible for anyone to judge the action of the president of the American Federation of Labor unless they have become acquainted with the war frenzy which exists in the east, and which gripped congress.

"President Gompers evidently saw that a declaration of war was inevitable. He was on the ground and in a position to know. No one in Washington who used his ears and eyes and mind could reach any other conclusion, and so with a declaration of war impending it was up to the president of the American Federation of Labor to adopt a policy which would best protect the federation.

"He had for his guidance what had happened in England. He remembered that the English labor movement, stronger than the A. F. of L., had at first refused to co-operate with the government, but that it had been unsuccessful in preventing the war, and had been forced to surrender many valuable conditions won through years of strife and sacrifice.

"We are facing things, and forced to face things as they are, and not as we wish they were. We cannot say, but we believe time will prove that President Gompers was right."

CARPENTERS REPORT GAINS.

Indianapolis, April 21.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports the following wage gains the past week by affiliated locals:

Ironton, Ohio—From 40 to 50 cents an hour. Westfield, Mass.—45 to 60 cents. De Land, Fla.—41 to 45 cents. Norfolk, Va.—44 to 50 cents. Naperville, Ill.—55 to 60 cents. York, Pa.—30 to 36 cents. Vineland, N. J.—41 to 50 cents. Roswell, N. M.—50 to 62 1-2 cents. Pine Bluff, Ark.—50 to 60 cents. St. Louis, Mo.—(Millmen) 36 to 38 cents until June 12 next; 40 cents thereafter. Lynn, Mass.—55 to 60 cents; hours reduced from 44 to 40 per week. Cedar Rapids, Iowa—55 to 62 1-2 cents. Coshocton, Ohio—50 to 55 cents. Hobart, Ind.—50 to 60 cents. Winona, Minn.—45 to 50 cents. Plattsburg, N. Y.—40 1-2 to 50 cents. Kankakee, Ill.—50 to 55 cents. Mobile, Ala.—(Ship carpenters) $3.50 to $4 a day. New Brunswick, N. J.—$4 to $4.60. Bridgeport, Conn.—$4.25 to $4.80. Fredericksburg, Va.—$3 to $3.50. East Aurora, N. Y.—$3 to $4.05; hours reduced from 10 to nine per day.

STEADY GAINS BY BAKERS.

Chicago, April 21.—Editor Hohman of the Bakers' Journal is jubilant over the steady progress being made by the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International union, which has secured an agreement with the Ward Baking company that unionizes its plants in New York city, Brooklyn, Pittsburg, Newark, Cleveland, Providence, Baltimore and Cambridge, Mass.

Other gains are recorded in Louisville, St. Louis and New York city, and "spring drives" for better conditions have been started in numerous localities.

Editor Hohman declares that the policy of granting small concessions, in order to keep the men away from organization, will no longer do. "The situation demands a solution and the latter can only be lastingly found in the recognition of the union and its just and humane demands," he says.

MONTANA LOCKOUT FAILS.

Great Falls, Mont., April 21.—The Great Falls branch of the Montana Employers' association has failed in its attempt to smash trade unionism and has ended a lockout by agreeing that hereafter all grievances shall be referred to a joint committee consisting of six men from each side. The agreement is signed by the Employers' association and the Cascade County Trades and Labor Assembly.

This settlement was only made possible by the rugged trade unionism of Great Falls' workers who resisted the most powerful influences their employers could command.

WOULD ENCOURAGE STRIKES.

Stratford, Ontario, April 21.—The Grand Trunk railway seems to be looking for trouble by attempting to check organization among its low-waged machinists. Several of these workers have been discharged. They include officers of the Machinists' union and the management refuses to discuss the matter, even though the Canadian industrial disputes act prohibits public utilities from precipitating a lock-out until 30 days' notice has been given the government.

GUSTAV MOSTLER IS DEAD.

Cincinnati, April 21.—Gustav Mostler, for the past 10 years editor of Brauer Zeitung, official newspaper of the United Brewery Workmen, is dead. Deceased possessed exceptional ability as a writer on trade unionism and allied subjects and his pen was a powerful factor in the success of his international union.

GAINS BY LATHERS.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 21.—Contractors are signing the new wage scale of Lathers' union No. 184. A piece work rate of $3.50 per thousand and a day work rate of $5 is asked. Former [illegible] were $3 a thousand for soft lath and $3.50 for hard lath, with $4.50 a day for time work.

MORE COSSACKS.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 21.—The governor has signed a bill which adds 163 men to the state constabulary troop and raises wages of all these cossacks from the commander down. The present force is now 332.

WANT EQUAL WAGE SCALE.

Springfield, Mass., April 21.—Cooks and Waiters' unions in this city and vicinity have organized a district council to secure an equal wage scale and to extend the principle of one day off in seven.

PASS EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Boston, April 21.—The state senate has passed [illegible]